

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey # P.G.#68-62 Building Date 1932  
Building Name Marché House  
Location 4800 Rhode Island Avenue, Hyattsville  
Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Marche house is a large two and one-half story Georgian Revival style house prominently sited on a small knoll visible from Route 1 in Hyattsville. The house consists of a two and one-half story gable roof central block flanked by one and one-half story wings. It has a stucco exterior wall treatment and a tile roof. Its large size, symmetrical features, and placement on a two and one-half acre lot close to a busy thoroughfare make it a landmark in Hyattsville.

Significance

The Marche house is significant as an outstanding example of a Georgian Revival style dwelling. Designed by architect John Robie Kennedy, and constructed in 1932, it is one of the most prominent examples of its style and period of construction in the County. The house features an unusual exterior surface treatment called concrete mosaic, a twentieth century innovation in building materials pioneered by the John J. Earley Studio of Washington, D.C. Sited on a knoll on a two and one-half acre lot, it is visible from Route 1 and is a landmark in Hyattsville.

Acreage: 2.57 acres

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#68-62

Magi No.

DOE yes no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Marche House

and/or common Marche House

## 2. Location

street & number 4800 Rhode Island Avenue (U.S. Route 1) not for publication

city, town Hyattsville vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>district</u>	<u>public</u>	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>agriculture</u>
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>
<u>site</u>	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>entertainment</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	<u>military</u>

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Esther McVey

street & number 6904 Carleton Terrace telephone no.:

city, town College Park state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4280

street & number Main Street folio 263

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NA

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#68-62

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Marche house is a large two and one-half story Georgian Revival style house prominently sited on a small knoll visible from Route 1 in Hyattsville. The house consists of a two and one-half story gable roof central block flanked by one and one-half story wings. It has a stucco exterior wall treatment and a tile roof. Its large size, symmetrical features, and placement on a two and one-half acre lot close to a busy thoroughfare make it a landmark in Hyattsville.

The three-by-four bay main block has central entrance on the south elevation. The entrance door is sheltered by a one-bay flat roofed entrance porch supported by double columns. The entrance is set in a two story pavilion surmounted by an enclosed pediment containing a lunette window. Windows on the three-bay south facade are all triple windows, a large central 6/6 double-hung-sash flanked by two narrow 1/1 sashes. The windows are surmounted by decorative lintels made of exposed and colored aggregate set into the stucco wall covering. The decorative aggregate is also featured on flower boxes set beneath the two first story windows and on the porches of the adjoining wings. The aggregate also is used for a decorative frieze on the main block. The facade is surmounted by two gable-roof dormer windows, above the first and third bays.

The east and west elevations of the main block are dominated by the gable roof, two-by-two bay wings. Exterior chimneys are centered on the east and west elevations of the main block, breaking the peak of the gable roof. Fan-shaped windows flank either side of the chimney at loft level. The raking cornice has returns flush with the wall surface.

The three-bay north, rear elevation is much plainer than the front. There are triple windows at first story level, and single 6/6 sash windows at second story level. At loft level are three gable roof dormers.

The one and one-half story two-by-two bay wings have two-bay porches facing the south main elevation, covered by each wing's deeply overhanging gable roof. The east wing has flanking French doors fronting onto its porch. The west wing has a door and a window sheltered by its porch. Centered above the south facade on both wings is a gable roofed dormer with a 6/6 double-hung-sash window.

The Marche house is located on a low knoll, overlooking its

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STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. P.G.#68-62

Description (continued)

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grassy lawns. There are mature trees surrounding the house. A large greenhouse complex west of the house and paved driveway to the rear give the north elevation of the dwelling a commercial appearance. The Marche florist shop, built in the 1950's is located southeast of the house, on a corner fronting on Rhode Island Avenue (Route 1).

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	building technology, local history	

**Specific dates** 1932 **Builder/Architect** architect John Robie Kennedy

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Marche house is significant as an outstanding example of a Georgian Revival style dwelling. Designed by architect John Robie Kennedy, and constructed in 1932, it is one of the most prominent examples of its style and period of construction in the County. The house features an unusual exterior surface treatment called concrete mosaic, a twentieth century innovation in building materials pioneered by the John J. Earley Studio of Washington, D.C. Sited on a knoll on a two and one-half acre lot, it is visible from Route 1 and is a landmark in Hyattsville.

The Marche house is a large, symmetrically designed dwelling with a two and one-half story main block flanked by one and one-half story wings. It features an impressive south, main facade. The north (rear) and the east and west sides are clearly secondary. In addition to the symmetrical plan and elevations of the dwelling, Georgian Revival style elements include the two story entrance pavilion surmounted by an enclosed pediment with a centered lunette window, the one bay, one story entrance porch surmounted by a balustrade, the gable roof dormers and the fan-shaped windows flanking the end chimneys.

The Marche house was not designed as a replication of a Georgian style dwelling. Twentieth century design features and building materials were used, such as the French doors on the main elevation of the east wing and the roof covering of orange ceramic tile. The house is covered with beige stucco. The main facade has surface decoration in the form of bands of colored pebble aggregate used as lintels above the first story windows, as a frieze below the cornice line and on flower boxes below the first story windows and on the porches of the wings. This surface treatment is

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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unusual. It differentiates the Marche house from the typical Georgian Revival style dwelling, and in fact adds the character of uniqueness to the buildings it was used on. It is a decorative use of concrete that was a technique known to the architect, John Robie Kennedy.

John Robie Kennedy (1881-1966) had a long and varied practice. He spent many years in Washington, D.C., working for the Federal government in the Office of the Supervising Architect in the Treasury Department. He also was a member of the firm of Wilson, Berryman and Kennedy, located in Raleigh, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Marche family, Kennedy designed the Marche house because he was a friend of the family.<sup>2</sup> It was constructed in 1932, while Kennedy was employed by the Washington, D. C. architectural firm of Murphy and Olmstead.<sup>3</sup> Kennedy claimed to have designed the Mullen Library at Catholic University in Washington, D. C., a structure credited to the firm of Murphy and Olmstead, constructed in 1925-1928.<sup>4</sup> From 1932 through 1936 Kennedy worked for the Office of the Supervising Architect, Public Building Administration, United States Treasury Department.<sup>5</sup> While in that position, he designed the Gold Bullion Depository at Fort Knox, Kentucky, which was completed in 1936.<sup>6</sup> He claimed to have designed the murals on the ceiling above the entrances to the Department of Justice building at 10th and Constitution Avenues, constructed in 1934-35.<sup>7</sup> The murals were completed by the John J. Earley Studio of Washington, D. C. Kennedy worked with the Earley Studio at various times during the years 1927 through 1945.<sup>8</sup>

John J. Earley pioneered the use of concrete as a finished exterior treatment for buildings and structures. Called "exposed aggregate stucco", the material could vary in color from white through hundreds of color gradations to black based on the type of pebble aggregate contained in the concrete.<sup>9</sup> The Peace Cross, at the intersection of Bladensburg Road and alternate Route 1; and Meridian Hill Park on 16th Street in Washington, D. C. are examples of Earley's work with this material. John J. Earley created a new decorative surface treatment called concrete mosaic. Colored concrete was used on the interior or exterior of a building to create complex designs or pictorial scenes. The Shrine of the Sacred Heart on 16th Street in Washington, D. C., the Mullen Library at Catholic University and the ceilings at the entrances to the Department of Justice building at 10th and Constitution Avenues all have examples of this type of decoration, credited to the John J. Earley Studio<sup>10</sup> and claimed to have been designed by architect John Robie Kennedy.<sup>11</sup>

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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The Marche house has examples of the concrete mosaic treatment, in the decorative lintels above the first story windows on the south (main) elevation; as a frieze below the cornice-line on the south elevation and on the large flower boxes below the first story windows and on the porches of the side wings, south elevation. Kennedy apparently learned the technique through his work with the Earley Studio and applied it in his private architectural practice.

The Marche family, for whom the Marche house was designed, purchased the property in 1915.<sup>12</sup> At that time a frame dwelling known as Melrose stood on the lot. Constructed circa 1875 by Robert Kerr Elliot, attorney, it served for a time after his death as a boarding school for girls.<sup>13</sup> The Marche family resided in Melrose until they had it removed for the construction of the present house.<sup>14</sup>

William J. Marche founded a florist business, Marche and Company, Inc., in 1908. The business was originally located at 14th and H Streets N. W., in Washington, D.C.<sup>15</sup> Marche died in 1919, at the age of 39.<sup>16</sup> His widow, Augusta R. Marche, moved the family business to their Hyattsville home in 1922.<sup>17</sup> The business was run out of the family home until the shop, designed by John Robie Kennedy, was constructed during the 1950's.<sup>18</sup> The Marche house is still owned by members of the family and the business is still run by the family, from the adjoining shop, which fronts on Route 1.

1.Questionnaire for Architects' Roster and/or Register of Architects Qualified for Federal Public Works; Raleigh, North Carolina, June 22, 1946, George R. Berryman and John Robie Kennedy, Architects. From the American Institute of Architects Archives, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

2.Conversation with Mrs. Esther McVey, October 1988.

3.Questionnaire, op. cit.

4.Obituary, the Washington Post, August 4, 1966.

5.Questionnaire, op. cit.

6.Ibid.; and conversation with Maria Goodwin, Mint Historian, March 1989; and Record Group 121, Records of the Public Buildings Service, General Correspondence, Fort Knox, Kentucky, available at

National Archives, Suitland, Maryland.

7.Ibid.; and Fiftieth Anniversary Book on U. S. Department of Justice Building, 1984, available at the Department of Justice Library, 10th and Constitution Avenues, Washington, D.C.

8.Ibid.

9.Frederick W. Cron, The Man Who Made Concrete Beautiful, A Biography of John Joseph Earley, Centennial Publications, Ft. Collins, Colorado, May 1977.

10.Ibid.

11.Questionnaire, op. cit.

12.Land Records of Prince George's County, 102:417.

13.Land Records, Administration File 1268, Robert K. Elliot.

14.Esther McVey, op. cit.; and conversation with Francis X. Geary, Hyattsville Historian, 1988.

15.Obituary, Evening Star, January 11, 1972, Augusta Marche.

16.Obituary, Evening Star, August 6, 1919, pg. 7, William J. Marche.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See endnotes, #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.57 acres

Tax Map 50 B-1

Quadrangle name Washington East E

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marina King, Preservation Planner

organization Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

date April 1990

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive

telephone 301-952-4609

city or town Upper Marlboro

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title  
Marche House  
P.G. # 68-62

4280:263 28 June 1973 Deed	William T. Marche and Louise C. Marche to William T. and Louise C. Marche and Esther M. McVey, joint tenants. Property begins on 42nd Place (formerly Park Avenue) and Crittenden (formerly Columbia Avenue). 2.47 acres and Lot 29, Hyatt's Addition to Hyattsville, 5,180 square feet. Same in deed May 11, 1973. William T. Marche, personal representative of Augusta E. Marche to William T. and Louise C. Marche 4228:838.
4228:838 11 May 1973 Deed	Estate of Augusta Marche to William T. and Louise C. Marche. Augusta Marche died 9 Jan. 1972, testate. Will dated Dec. 5, 1967, Codicil Jan. 29, 1971, Ad. #21,452. All of parcel 1 and part of Parcel 2 as described in deed from Clara V. Jenkins to Augusta E. Marche April 19, 1915, 102:417. 2.47 acres, and Lot #29, 5,180 square feet.
102:417 19 April 1915 Deed	Clara V. Jenkins, widow, to Augusta R. March. For \$10 grantor conveys two contiguous parcels in Hyattsville. Lot #29 - Platted H.B. 8:176. Other parcel 3-1/10 acre excepting 18 square feet at southeast corner. Same property to grantor by Phil H. Tuck, attorney, 25 March 1915.
102:416 25 March 1915 Deed	Phil H. Tuck, attorney, to Clara V. Jenkins. At public sale 14 Nov. 1914, by power of attorney in mortgage, Rosa C. Burch and William D. Burch to Hugh Jenkins, 2 March 1912, 81:393. Sale made after default. Sold to Clara V. Jenkins, highest bidder, \$6,100. Described in deed William Meyer Lewin to Robert A. Kantz, 2 Aug. 1904, 14:444. First parcel Lot 29, conveyed to William Lewin by Emily L. Elliott, May 26, 1898, JB 6:63. Second parcel 3-1/10 acres, same conveyed to William Lewin by Charles A. Elliott Executor, 1 Sept. 1886, JWB 7:157.
JB6:63 26 May 1899 Deed	Emily L. Elliot to William Meyer Lewin of Hyattsville. For \$150 grantor conveys 5,180 square feet, Lot #29. Conveyed to grantor by Martin L. Littlefield, Oct. 1, 1883 JWB 2:370.
JWB 7:157 1 Sept. 1886 Deed	Charles A. Elliott, executor of Robert K. Elliott, to William M. Lewin of Dorchester Co. For \$9,500, subject to mortgage of \$5,000, 3-1/10 acres. Same conveyed to Robert Elliott by Levi Nalley. Buildings and improvements convey, including telephone now established on premises. Same on which Elliott resided at time of death. Mortgage executed by Elliott 22 May 1884, JWB 3:306.

JWB 3:306  
22 May 1884  
Mortgage

Robert K. and Emily L. Elliott. Elliott indebted to Frederick J. Brown, trustee of estate of Charles Waters, dec'd., for sum of \$5,000.

HB 10:147  
24 April 1875  
Deed

Levi Nally to Robert M. Elliott. For \$3,000 grantor conveys part of a tract called Belltown in the Village of Hattsville, fronting on the public road, 3-1/10 acres, platted April 8, 1875 by Geo. W. Jackson. Same conveyed by Matthew Jarboe to Levi Nally June 25, 1841, JBB 1:513.

## John Robie Kennedy - chronology

1881-1966

University of Alabama  
University of Illinois

Published articles on Greek Revival -  
1904 in Brickbuilder age 23  
1907 in Architectural Record age 26

1904-20 Office of Supervising Architect - Treasury Dept.

1920-23 Designer for F. B. Pyle

**\*\*Shrine of the Sacred Heart begun 1920, interior decorated 1922\*\***  
Murphy and Olmstead  
John J. Early Studios, decoration

1923-1926 Wilson, Berryman & Kennedy - member of firm, Raleigh, NC  
?DOWN SOUTH? age 42-46, not listed in DC City Directory

**\*\*Mullen Library cornerstone reads 1925, probably finished later\*\***  
Murphy and Olmstead

1927-32 Designer for Murphy &amp; Olmstead age 46-51

**\*\*Marche House built 1932\*\***

**\*\*Duke University Chapel cornerstone laid 1930, completed 1932\*\***  
Firm of Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia

1932-36 Designer, Office of Supervising Architect, Treasury Dept.

**\*\*Fort Knox, 1934/36\*\***

**\*\*Department of Justice building, 1934/35\*\***  
Zantzinger, Borie and Medary of Philadelphia  
John J. Early Studios, decoration

1936-37 Designer, F. V. Murphy

1937-46 War Department age 56-65

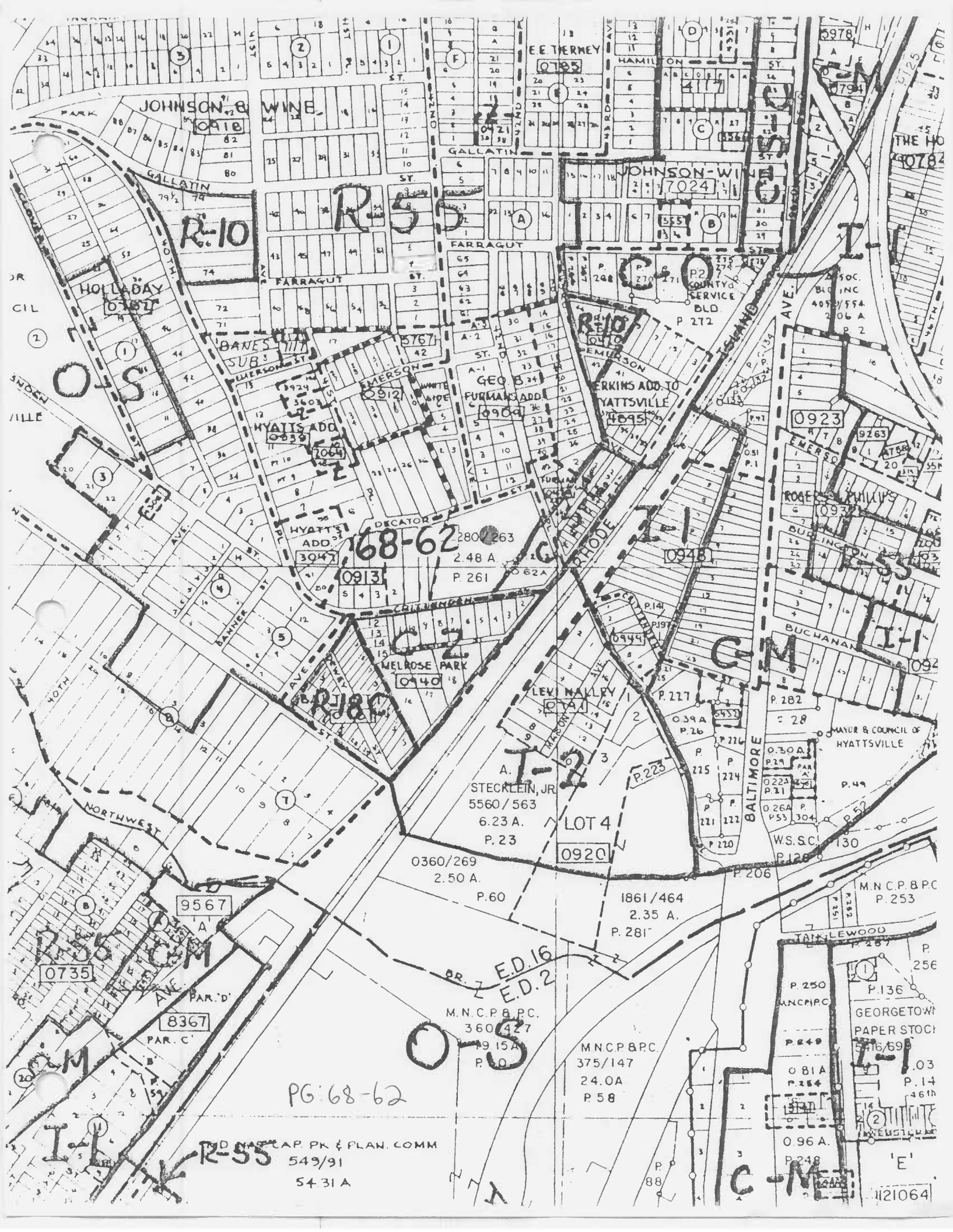
1927-45 At various times designer with John J. Early

1946 Own practice - Berryman and Kennedy, Raleigh, NC

1966 dies Washington, D.C. age 85



PG 68-62



JOHNSON-WINE  
0918

R-10

R-55

JOHNSON-WINE  
17024

HOLLADAY  
0387

BANES  
SUBS

EMERSON  
0912

C-2

GEORGE  
0909

ERKINS ADD. TO  
YATTSVILLE  
0895

HYATT  
0839

DECATOR  
0913

280/263  
2.48 A.  
P. 261

0948

C-2

MELROSE PARK  
0940

C-M

I-2

STECKLEIN, JR.  
5560/563  
6.23 A.  
P. 23

LOT 4

0920

0360/269  
2.50 A.  
P. 60

1861/464  
2.35 A.  
P. 281

ED. 16  
ED. 2

M.N.C.P. & P.C.  
360/427

1915A  
P. 0

M.N.C.P. & P.C.  
375/147

24.0A  
P. 58

M.N.C.P. & P.C.  
P. 253

TANGLEWOOD

P. 250

M.N.C.P. & P.C.

P. 249

GEORGETOWN  
PAPER STOCK

081A  
P. 254

0.96 A.

P. 248

0.96 A.

P. 248

0.96 A.

P. 248

PG: 68-62

MD MAP CAP. PK & PLAN. COMM

549/91

5431A

R-55

C-M

021064









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Marche House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Marina King  
April 1990  
South main facade  
Neg: MD Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD  
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Marble House

Prince George's County

Marina King

April 1990

South window detail

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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Marche House

Prince Georges County

Marina King

April 1990

West elevation, main  
block and wing

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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P.G. #68-62

Marche House  
Prince Georges County  
Marina King  
April 1990  
east elevation, main  
block and wing  
Neg. MHT, Annapolis  
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P.G. #68-62

Marche House

Prince George's County

Marion King

April 1990

North elevation

Neg MHT, Annapolis

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Marche House  
Prince George's County  
Marina King  
April 1990  
Florist shop, south  
elevation  
Neg. MHT, Annapolis  
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P.G. #68-62

Marche House  
Prince George's County  
Marina King  
April 1990  
with elevation  
Neg: MHT, Annapolis  
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PG. #68-62

Marche House

Prince Georges County

Marina King

April 1990

South Elevation

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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Marche House

Prince Georges County

Marna King

April 1990

East Elevation

Neg: MHT, Annapolis

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